(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs also approved export applications, which have been pending for long, worth 300 million Swiss Francs to India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Following the 1998 nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, the Swiss Federal Council had decided that no new export applications for defence material for either country would be authorized. The normal procedure of prior authorization of defence exports has been re-introduced by a decision of the Swiss Federal Council on 29th June, 2005. The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) can now process the release of a license for a pending request from India for defence related equipment costing Swiss Francs 300 million.

Militant activities in J and K

1783. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in militant activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the last few months;

(b) if so, what measures Government has taken;

(c) whether Government has raised the issue with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There has been an increase in militant activities in the last few months, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The current strategy adopted by the Army to tackle cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir incorporates an integrated counter infiltration strategy, relentless operations in the hinterland and winning the 'hearts and minds' of the local populace through small scale development and community projects like construction of bridges, roads and electrification of remote areas, Free health care, construction of schools and setting up mini hydroelectric plants. The Army in conjunction with other intelligence and security agencies, continually reviews its strategy to deal with terrorists to ensure

that infiltration is further minimised and violence levels in J&K remain under check.

Government is monitoring the situation closely, and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is continuing is based on the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under it's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President of Pakistan on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed, *inter alia,* the commitments made in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004. This issue is also highlighted at the DGMO level talks held from time to time.

Requirement of submarines

1784. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present requirement of submarines to effectively defend the country's borders and how many the Navy have at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of them are due for retirement and no decision has yet been taken to replace them; and

(c) what action the Ministry propose to take in this regard in view of the time lag involved in manufacture/procurement of submarines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government has an approved long term perspective plan for the indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building to meet the requirements of the Indian Navy.

The review of force level of Indian Navy is an ongoing process keeping in view the prevailing security environment, threat perception, emerging technologies, decommissioning of ships/submarines and availability of funds. Steps are taken by the Government to meet any deficiencies to ensure full defence preparedness.

Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA)

1785. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: